

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 00862 030157Z

61

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 AID-05 EUR-12

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O R 022205Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9410

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0862

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR PINT NZ VS

SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: A) STATE 071355 B) WELLINGTON 844 (NOTAL); C) SAIGON 3997

1. EMBASSY ON APRIL 2 AGAIN DISCUSSED REFUGEE EVACUATION
PROBLEM WITH MFA DEPUTY SECRETARY MERVYN NORRISH, EMPLOYING
STATE AND SAIGON REFTELS. WE POINTED OUT THAT, ALTHOUGH
AN EVACUATION FROM DANANG MIGHT NO LONGER BE FEASIBLE,
PLANS WERE TO MOVE REFUGEES FROM OTHER POINTS ALONG THE CAST.
WE HOPED NEW ZEALAND COULD HELP.

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2. NORRISH SAID NEW ZEALAND KEENLY FELT THE HUMAN TRAGEDY OF VIETNAM. THE COUNCIL OF ORGANIZATIONS FOR RELIEF SERVICES OVERSEAS (CORSO) WAS LAUNCHING ON APRIL 2 A PUBLIC APPEAL FOR FUNDS TO AID VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. THE GNZ WOULD FOLLOW WITH A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WOULD MATCH FUNDS RAISED BY CORSO. HOPE WAS TO RAISE SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND NEW ZEALAND DOLLARS.

3. NORRISH SAID NEW ZEALAND PROBABLY COULD DO LITTLE TOWARDS A PHYSICAL EVACUATION OF REFUGEES. THERE WERE THREE ANTIQUATED BRISTOL FREIGHTERS AT SINGAPORE, BUT THESE PLANES SEEMED NOT VERY SUITABLE FOR EVACUATION PURPOSES. IN ADDITION, THE MFA IS MEETING WITH NEW ZEALAND NAVY TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF ASSISTING IN EVACUATION OF REFUGEES BY WATER. NORRISH SEEMED UNCERTAIN WHETHER NEW ZEALAND WOULD ACTUALLY PROVIDE A SHIP OR SHIPS, POINTING TO POSSIBILITY THAT EVENTS WOULD MOVE TOO FAST IN VIETNAM FOR NEW ZEALAND TO CATCH UP.

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Message Attributes

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